

The Topeka State Journal.

LAST EDITION.

THURSDAY EVENING.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, MARCH 22, 1900.

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TWO CENTS.

BRITISH REPULSE.

Gen. Olivier Beats Gen. Gatacre at Bethulle.

English Lose Heavily in Killed and Captured.

LONDON DOUBTS IT.

News Comes by Way of the Republican Capitals.

Dutch Are Advancing in Force on Lobatsi.

Kroonstadt, Orange Free State, Tuesday, March 20, via Pretoria.—The Boers commanded by General Olivier have engaged the British troops under General Gatacre in the vicinity of Bethulle, repulsing the British with heavy loss and capturing many of them.

Burgers are arriving here in great numbers. General De Witt arrived today.

Desultory firing with Col. Plummer's column has occurred near Gaborone.

London, March 22.—The report from Kroonstadt, via Pretoria, that the Boers under the command of General Olivier had defeated the British troops under General Gatacre in the vicinity of Bethulle, is not believed here. A dispatch to the Daily News from Springsfontein dated Tuesday, March 20, says Gen. Gatacre was "all well" and adds that he and Gen. Brabant had not lost a dozen men in a fortnight. The latest advice was that Gatacre was about 30 miles north of Bethulle, where the Boer report says the defeat was inflicted. This combined with the fact that no mention of the affair was made by Lord Roberts, in his dispatch of March 21, confirms the belief that the Kroonstadt advice are erroneous.

The reports of skirmishing near Lobatsi while apparently true, containing any serious loss on Col. Plummer's column, cause grave anxiety in regard to his ability to reach Mafeking. Further news from that quarter is anxiously awaited, for 15 days have elapsed since the last message were sent off, a serious engagement may have occurred, though not of Col. Gatacre's, but the Boers arriving at that place the Boers evacuated.

The Times' London edition, published a dispatch from Lorenzo Martines which quotes President Steyn as saying, at Kroonstadt, that the Boers could continue the struggle for six months longer. While the Boers and British in the Orange Free State are taking advantage of the period of inactivity to enjoy a rest, those on the borders of Natal are beginning to show activity. A special dispatch from Durban says the town of Pomeroy, 30 miles east of Ladysmith, has been attacked by the Boers. A British detachment arriving at that place the Boers evacuated.

LONDON DOESN'T BELIEVE IT.

London, March 22.—Lord Roberts' telegraph from Bloemfontein under date of March 21 as follows: "So many burgers have expressed a desire to surrender under the terms of the last proclamation that I have sent small columns in various directions to register their names."

The Scots guards are at Edenburg and Reddersburg. General Clements' brigade is marching hither by way of Philippolis and Pauresmeit."

The report of General Gatacre's defeat by the Boers is not believed here. The last advice placed Gatacre about thirty miles north of Bethulle where the Boer report says he was defeated.

BOERS MOVE ON LOBATSI.

Lobatsi, March 16.—The Boers, under Commandant Snyman, are advancing in force from Mafeking toward Lobatsi. Col. Bodie made a reconnaissance on March 14, and found Lobatsi and the Boer camp occupied by the Boers. He returned to Goode Sliding and made a demonstration on March 14. He found the Boers in strength at a station on the railway. They had mounted a gun on the line and were lying in wait for the construction train.

A brisk firing occurred a few miles south of Lobatsi on the morning of the 15th. The Boers' Maxim was freely used. Col. Bodie came in touch with the Boers just in time to prevent the camp being surprised. The Boers attacked the advance party and captured a few boxes of ammunition and nearly secured a Maxim. Lieut. Tyler was killed and Lieut. Chapman captured. Col. Bodie coming up put the Boers to flight. The Boers yesterday were within a few miles of Lobatsi. Yesterday afternoon the Boers pressed closely on Col. Plummer's main camp and kept up a hot fire with a Maxim, killing one white man and one native. They placed the Maxim and a 12-pounder on a hill on the east side of the line, 4,000 yards from the camp.

The British right is protected by Chief Batho, who has warned the Boers not to enter his territory.

Col. Plummer's present endeavor is to insure the safety of the railway north of Lobatsi and to watch well the flank. It is probable that before the Boers retire towards Pretoria they will tackle the Rhodesians in force.

STORY OF MODDER RIVER.

As Told by Special Correspondent of Morning Post.

(Correspondence of Associated Press.)

London, March 14.—In so many dispatches with Lord Roberts appear to have been so busy in their endeavors to follow his rapidly moving column that they have been unable to send the usual lengthy letters by mail. Moreover, the main army under the commander in chief has assumed such large proportions that it is impossible to send a detailed account of the movement as a whole. An idea of what took place around the Modder river camp can be gained from a letter of H. F. Prevost-Batterby, Major, Morning Post. Under date of Jacobsdal, February 17, he writes:

A harmonium stands on the 'stoep' with a Japanese tin mug on the key-board and some bottles on the top. Broken furniture and the sweepings of dirty floors are piled against a corner of the garden wall. A red flag flies before the house, and like bees about it the staff of a division, mostly in shirt sleeves, buzzes in and out of the doorway. The owners of the house have fled, for this at last is invasion, and

we are in the enemy's country, after four months' fighting in our own.

"The movement began Saturday, February 15, a force of some 5,000 mounted infantry crossing the bridge at Orange River and attacking the Boer camp. General French with the cavalry division and General Tucker with the Seventh division crossed the border from Honey Nest Kloof and Endin the next day, and the Sixth division under General Kelly-Kenny followed from Gras Pan on the 12th. Radian was the first halting place, the Riet river the second, and through these divisions passed, each a day ahead of the other, the cavalry, which led the way, having to clear the enemy from the rising ground on the way to the river and from the drift when they reached it, but save poor Major Endin, shot through the body above the right, suffered little from the enemy's opposition.

"At Radian the transport train of the Seventh division filled the great 'empty' flat bottom. It began to move outwards the Riet at 3 p. m. It continued to move out until 3:30 the next morning. The evening was absolutely clear and still, and the gray, soft smoke of dust which every foot fall lifted, clung about the miles of wagons like a curtain.

"The dust was so foul, so contaminating that after an hour's effort to ride it out we pulled the cart from the ruck and outmanned on the yell. All night beside us moved the cable of gray vapor under the full moon, the 'smoke of its torment' growing thicker till nothing clear and still, and the gray, soft smoke of dust which every foot fall lifted, clung about the miles of wagons like a curtain.

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GREAT SCHEMES.

Popenoe Wants Farmers to Feed Famine Stricken India.

Has Decided to Let State Give 1,000,000 Bushels of Corn.

HE AND "FIGHTING JOE"

Now Have No Differences Between Them—Sweet Serenity.

Says They Propose to Make the Topeka Capital

"Fit For Every Member of Any Family to Read."

Popenoe Seizes Upon the Above Herculean Tasks.

[From the Chicago Record March 21.]

F. O. Popenoe, proprietor and manager of the Topeka Daily Capital, said last night that his newspaper would endeavor to perpetuate the Sheldon idea of journalism by collecting 1,000,000 bushels of Kansas corn at once and

50,000 when the new and continuous policy of his paper became known.

Popenoe and "J. K." in Accord!

[From Chicago Inter-Ocean, March 21.] The Topeka Capital will not be continued as a religious newspaper on the lines laid down by the Rev. C. M. Sheldon. It will be conducted as a state newspaper, on what its owners consider a higher plane than that of the average newspaper, but religion and reform will not supplant news as in the six days of the Sheldon regime.

F. O. Popenoe, principal owner of the Capital, is authority for this statement. He passed through Chicago yesterday en route to Washington, and when seen at the Grand Pacific hotel he said:

"We all realize that the Sheldon edition of the Capital, as a newspaper, was not a success. Mr. Sheldon had so much religious and reform in it, which he crowded out the real news. We shall follow his idea to a certain extent, however, in handling the news. It will be printed, but will be handled in such a manner as to conform to a high moral standard. The Capital will be a newspaper and not a religious journal. The Sheldon edition has proved of lasting benefit to the paper. Of course our circulation throughout the country was merely temporary, and we do not expect to hold it, but we gained thousands of subscribers in Topeka and throughout Kansas that we shall hold."

"We and Joe" Agreed.

"There is no difference between my idea of how the Capital should be conducted and those of Gen. J. K. Hudson, the editor-in-chief, and Dell Kelzer, the business manager. We held a stockholders' meeting yesterday and found that all have the same idea as to the future conduct of the paper. We believe the Capital has a mission in Kansas—to be a Republican newspaper of

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ANYTHING GOES.

Great Britain Ready to Accept Davis Amendment

To the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty Regarding the Canal.

ALLOWS SAME RIGHTS

As Those Enjoyed by England Over the Suez Ditch.

Central American Countries Not So Well Pleased.

New York, March 22.—A special to the Herald from Washington says:

There are good reasons now for believing that Great Britain will accept the Davis amendment to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, under which the United States will have the right to place the same safeguards around the Nicaragua canal as the British government enjoys in respect to the Suez canal.

It was strongly intimated to your correspondent by a diplomat usually well informed that Great Britain, with some show of reluctance at first, will in the end accept the amendment.

The informant of your correspondent

BY ARBITRATION.

Two Claims of Americans Against Nicaragua Will Be Settled.

Washington, March 22.—Secretary Hay and Senor Correa, the Nicaraguan minister, today signed a treaty providing for the settlement by arbitration of the claims of two American concerns against the government of Nicaragua. One of the claims is that of Orr and Laubenstein of New Orleans, for damages sustained through the temporary seizure by the Nicaraguan government of some tugs belonging to the firm at Bluefields. These tugs were used to tow lighters laden with bananas from the shore to vessels lying out at sea, and in their absence a stock of bananas accumulated for shipment, decayed. The loss is placed at about \$15,000.

The other claim is that of the Post-Clover Electric company of Cincinnati, against the Nicaraguan government for electricity supplied to the tugs. The goods were ordered by an agent of the company at Bluefields. The agent dumped and the municipality seized the goods for which the company has never been paid. Their loss is placed at \$400.

The treaty provides for the submission of these claims to a single arbitrator. In this case General D. F. Wells, a stockholder of South Carolina, the distinguished engineer, who recently acted as arbitrator between Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Under agreement just signed the contest between Andrew Carnegie and H. C. Frick has been closed, the law suits are ordered stopped, and an amicable arrangement has been made between the two great steel manufacturers, by which not only are the warring elements set at rest, but a great steel and iron corporation has been formed that will be far reaching in its influence and have a capital of over \$200,000,000.

This result has been reached as the outcome of a personal conference between Mr. Frick and Mr. Carnegie which continued for two days and

APPLETONS FAIL.